



Maplewood Richmond Heights School District

2531 S. Big Bend Blvd. • Maplewood, MO 63144 • (314) 644-4400 • www.mrhschools.net
Dr. Bonita Jamison, Superintendent • Dr. Shonda Ambers-Phillips, Assistant Superintendent • Dr. Chris McGee, Assistant Superintendent

BOARD BRIEFS FOR JUNE 12, 2025

The Board of Education approved the following as part of the Consent Agenda:

Contracting with [Fantastechs](#) for IT services

The MRH Technology Department has worked to implement strategic changes to streamline operations, consolidate services, reduce costs, and manage district resources more efficiently. In September 2024, a consulting agency conducted a staffing audit of the Tech Department to assess the state of support and staffing. The outsourcing of management services will cost \$122,000 in the first year of a three-year contract; \$125,660 in year two; \$129,430 in year three.

Retention of a legal services provider

The firm of Tueth, Keeney, Cooper, Mohan & Jackstadt will be the new legal counsel to the District, replacing Curtis, Heinz, Garrett & O'Keefe. The contract period is for one year, renewable in one-year terms from July 1 through June 30.

Creation of Head Custodian position

Currently, lead custodians are assigned to daytime staff only, leaving night shift custodial teams without direct onsite leadership. This action reallocates an existing lead custodian role to provide necessary supervision and support during nighttime operations, ensuring continuity of service and oversight across all shifts.

Rachel Ward, Coordinator of Assessment, Data and Accountability, presented the District's assessment plan for 2025-2026. In compliance with state standards, the assessment plan includes a description of tests within the district-wide assessment program, the purpose of each and how the results will be used, guidelines for including students with special needs and test-security policy. The plan, approved by the Board, can be found under the [Curriculum section of our website](#).

School meal prices will increase by a dime, under a proposal okayed by the Board. The 10-cent increase on all student meals and adult breakfast, coupled with a 10-cent hike on milk, is expected to generate an additional \$9,700 in revenue. Raising lunch prices for full-pay students is a necessary step to address the escalation of food and labor costs that have significantly impacted the district's meal program. The increase will help maintain the quality of meals offered while ensuring that the food service program remains financially sustainable. [Meal prices and payment options are on our website](#).

Asst. Supt. Dr. Chris McGee and Technology Coordinator Dr. Abby Erwin jointly pitched a proposal to switch from Chromebooks to iPads for K-8 learners. They reported that iPads

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are better suited to support student-paced mastery-based learning, will cost less money to purchase and maintain, offer superior tech support and would have a significant residual value, unlike Chromebooks which can not be resold after their usefulness in the MRH classroom. The Board will vote later on the iPad proposal.

Asst. Supt. Dr. Shonda Ambers-Phillips provided a staffing update, with a snapshot of certified staffing trends over the past three years. Key indicators include the total number of certified teachers, year-to-date resignations/separations and retirements, internal transfers, and unfilled positions. Notably, the District has seen a steady improvement in retention rates, rising from 84% in the 2022–2023 academic year to a projected 95% in the 2024–2025 academic year. Hiring efforts are underway to fill remaining vacancies, with several recommendations pending board approval.

Staffing at a Glance

School Year	Certified Teachers (District)	Resignations/ Separations/ Retirements YTD	Internal Transfers	Unfilled Positions
2024-2025	131.86	6 (2 retirements, 5 resignations/separations)	1	**3
2023-2024	131.86	10 (1 retirement, 9 resignations/separations)	2	0
2022-2023	134	21 (4 retirements, 17 resignations/separations)	1	1

Three-Year Retention Rate (Certified Staff)

School Year	Resignations/ Separations/ Retirements	Total Certified Staff	Retention Rate
2024-2025	6	131.86	95%
2023-2024	10	131.86	93%
2022-2023	21	134	84%

Finally, Board members gave a green light to several contracts for projects made possible by voter passage of Proposition B. These include installation of a Distributed Antenna System (DAS) at the MS/HS campus to improve safety communication, particularly in the new construction areas and storm shelter... replacement of ceiling tiles... and installation of a new scoreboard on the secondary campus athletic field. Installation of new field lighting structures was tabled for a future meeting.

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